

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 06811 172021Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

UDKGPQ/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 7796

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T PARIS 06811

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR US CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: CSCE, UR, US, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH OPPOSITION TO ANY SUMMIT LINKED TO CSCE

1. IN COURSE GENERAL REVIEW CSCE SITUATION IN WAKE OF DUBLIN SUMMIT AND BREZHNEV LETTERS, CHIEF QUAI'S CSCE WORKING GROUP PIERRET MARCH 17 DISCUSSED WITH US ON PERSONAL BASIS STRONG FRENCH OPPOSITION TO ANY WESTERN SUMMIT LINKED TO CSCE.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 06811 172021Z

2. PIERRET SAID THAT QUAI HAD REVIEWED THIS QUESTION IN

PREPARATION FOR EC SUMMIT AND HAD CONCLUDED THAT WESTERN SUMMIT LINKED TO CSCE WOULD RUN RISK OF PRECIPITATING COMPARABLE EASTERN SUMMIT, I.E., OF WARSAW PACT; AND WOULD, IN ANY CASE, SUGGEST PRECISELY KIND OF "BLOC-TO-BLOC CONFRONTATION" WHICH CSCE IS SUPPOSED TO OVERCOME. QUAI ALSO DOUBTS SUCH MEETING NECESSARY TO DEMONSTRATE WESTERN CO/HESION.

3. PROCEEDING TO VARIOUS POSSIBLE FORMS OF SUMMIT MEETINGS, PIERRET SAID FRENCH ARE PARTICULARLY OPPOSED TO A SUMMIT OF THE FIFTEEN OR TO A NATO SUMMIT. A SUMMIT OF THE FIFTEEN WOULD BE TOO DIVERSE AND UNMANAGEABLE. WHAT'S MORE THE QUAI FEELS KEENLY THAT IT IS THE NINE RATHER THAN THE FIFTEEN WHO BEAR KEY CSCE RESPONSIBILITY, FOR INSTANCE ON CSCE ECONOMIC QUESTIONS OR ON ISSUES INVOLVED IN FOLLOW-ON.

4. FRENCH DISINCLINATION TOWARD A NATO SUMMIT IS IF ANYTHING STRONGER. THERE IS, PIERRET NOTED, CONTINUING FRENCH RELUCTANCE TO MAKE MAJOR POLITICAL GESTURES IN ANY NATO OR ATLANTIC CONTEXT, A COURSE WHICH WOULD POSE SPECIAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR GISCARD. MOREOVER, THE QUAI IS ALSO SENSITIVE TO NATO'S "ASSOCIATION" WITH IDEAS SUCH AS CSCE-MBFR LINKAGE, TO WHICH PARIS DOES NOT SUBSCRIBE AND WITH WHICH IT DOES NOT WANT TO BECOME ASSOCIATED, EVEN BY IMPLICATION.

5. OF THE VARIOUS POSSIBLE SUMMIT SCENARIOS, PIERRET THOUGHT FRENCH WOULD BE LEAST INDIPOSED TOWARD IDEA OF GIVING THE NEXT REGULAR EC-NINE SUMMIT THIS SUMMER SOME CSCE FLAVOR. ON OTHER HAND, IF NATO STATES DID DECIDE TO ARRANGE A SUMMIT, PIERRET THOUGHT, EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING STRICTLY PERSONALLY ON THIS POINT, THAT PARIS WOULD NOT BOYCOTT IT, BUT WOULD PROBABLY REFLECT ITS VIEW BY SENDING FRENCH PRIME MINISTER RATHER THAN PRESIDENT TO REPRESENT FRANCE.

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